



Taunton Rugby Football Club Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons Policy

1. Taunton Rugby Football Club, hereafter referred to as Taunton RFC or the club, acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in Taunton RFC from harm.
2. Taunton RFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union, hereafter referred to as the RFU, Safeguarding Policies, and the procedures, practices and guidelines contained therein. Taunton RFC also endorses and adopts the Policy Statements contained within those documents. Full details on the RFU Safeguarding Guidelines & RFU Best Practice can be found at;

RFU Safeguarding Information For Parents
[Information for Parents and Volunteers | Rugby Football Union](#)

RFU Safeguarding Adults Information
[Safeguarding Adults | Rugby Football Union](#)

RFU Parental Attendance At Rugby
<https://rfu.widen.net/s/qfsbqvmjmg/parental-attendance-at-rugby>

3. A child is anyone under the age of 18, engaged in any rugby union activity. However, where a 17 year old male player is playing in the adult game it is essential that every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure his safety and wellbeing are protected.
4. The key principles of the RFU Safeguarding Vulnerable People Policy are that;
 - The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult (as appropriate) are and must always be, paramount to any other considerations.
 - All participants, regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, size, shape, language or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse or harm.
 - All allegations or suspicions of abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice will be taken seriously, and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
 - Working in partnership with other organisations, statutory agencies, parents, carers, children and young people is essential for the welfare of children and young people,
 - Children have the right to expect support, and personal and social development delivered by an appropriately recruited, vetted structure and managed in relation to their participation in rugby union, whether they are playing, volunteering or officiating in the community or professional areas of the sport.

5. Taunton RFC recognises that all children have the right to participate in sport in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice. Taunton RFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity within Taunton RFC.
6. Taunton RFC will implement and comply with the RFU Code Of Conduct and the Codes Of Conduct For Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate. Taunton RFC will ensure its spectators, parents, members and officials are all aware of and have accepted the Taunton RFC Photographic Policy as set out in the Club Welcome Pack and on the Club website www.tauntonrfc.co.uk/youth
7. Taunton RFC will endeavour to comply with the Guidance For Websites as set out on the RFU official legal partners website.
8. Taunton RFC supports the RFU Parental Attendance At Rugby guidelines and all to ensure that parents are aware of their responsibilities to their child, coaches and club whilst their child is a player at Taunton RFC. Coaches are also aware and will notify the Club Safeguarding Officer if there is any cause for concern with any child within the Taunton RFC membership.
9. The Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) is currently **Samantha Wallis**, Assistant CSO are **Samantha Ball** and **James Litton**, Rugby Safe Lead is **Samantha Wallis**. If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult has been put at risk you must in the first instance inform the Club Safeguarding Officer **Samantha Wallis** on besafe@tauntonrfc.co.uk They will then inform the CB (Somerset RFU) Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Executive.
10. All members of Taunton RFC who have regular supervisory contact with children or a management responsibility for those working with children, must undertake an RFU Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure, henceforth referred to as a DBS. They must also be ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority) registered in accordance with the RFU ISA registration policy.
11. Taunton RFC will ensure that all its members, whether they are coaches, parents, players or officials will comply with the Best Practice Guidances as issued by the RFU. In summary, the following are **NOT** acceptable and will be treated seriously by the club and may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Club, CB or the RFU.
 - Working alone with a child, children, vulnerable adult or adults.
 - Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children or vulnerable adults.
 - Providing alcohol to children or allowing its supply.
 - Smoking in the presence of children.
 - Humiliating children or vulnerable adults.
 - Inappropriate or un-necessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult.
 - Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children or vulnerable adults.
 - Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child or vulnerable adult, developed as a result of being in a 'position of trust'.
 - Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.

11. Taunton RFC manages the changing facilities and arranges for them to be supervised by two adults (ISA registered & DBS checked) of the appropriate gender for the players using the facilities. Taunton RFC ensures that all its coaches, parents, officials and spectators are aware that adults must not change at the same time, using the same facilities as children or vulnerable adults.

12. Taunton RFC will ensure that its coaches (and Team Managers) will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role. The RFU 'Managing Challenging Behaviour' Policy has been adopted and circulated amongst the club workforce, both voluntary and paid.

13. Any events held on Taunton RFC premises must comply with this policy and if appropriate a Safeguarding plan should be discussed and circulated to those affected. CB approval is required and will be sought for any age grade festivals, non-RFU governance tours or camps being run by the Club. Any tours, overseas or domestic, undertaken by Taunton RFC must comply with the relevant RFU regulations & Guidance relating to tours. Approval for ALL TOURS regardless of location must be requested and approved by the Club Safeguarding Officer and Club Committee.

14. No player, whether male or female, may play adult rugby (or train with adults) until he or she has reached their 18th birthday unless they fully comply with the relevant RFU regulations predominantly Regulation 15.5-15.6. These are Regulation 2 of the Schools and Youth Regulations on pages 425 & 426, and Game Regulation 7.3 on page 206 of the 2009/10 RFU Handbook. Regulation 15 can be found on the RFU website at www.englandrugby.com/governance/rules-and-regulations/regulations. These regulations set out the circumstances/exceptions in which such under age players may play in the adult game and the permissions required. Essentially the regulations cover;

- Players who are 17 years old can play/train with seniors provided they have been assessed as capable of playing with adults – Agreement must be obtained from Taunton RFC Club Coaching Co-Ordinator & the Head Coach.
- These players need written parental permission in order to play/train.
- To play in the front row the player must be 18.
- Approval from the CB has been previously received and approved for the Club to play Under 17 players in that season.
- Approval has been received from the CB for the player to play up on receipt of all applications & forms.

The above applies to senior training as well as matches. Age group coaches should not send their players to train with the seniors if the above does not apply including during pre-season.

Document reviewed and revised by
Samantha Wallis
Rugby Safe Lead / CSO
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